

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, claims 2-13 and 15-23 were pending. By the present response, claims 2, 4, 9-10, 13, 15, 17-20 and 22 have been amended, claims 3, 16, 21 and 23 canceled, and claim 24 added. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 2, 4-13, 15, 17-20, 22 and 24 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims.

Entry of the forgoing is appropriate pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116 for at least the following reasons. First, the amendments raise no new issues that would necessitate further search and/or substantive reexamination. Second, the amendments clearly overcome the grounds of rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in objected claims 4, 17, and 18. By the present response, claims 4 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form. The remaining claims have been amended to depend from allowable claims 4 or 17.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6-10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,419,088 to Nemec (hereafter "Nemec") in view of WO 00/18583 to Trovinger (hereafter "*Trovinger*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 2 of the Official Action.

Claims 11, 12, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nemec in view of *Trovinger* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,954,258 to Skipor et al. (hereafter "*Skipor et al.*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 3 of the Official Action.

The rejections are moot in view of the amendment to the claims by which all of the rejected claims now depend from allowable independent claims 4 or 17.

NEW CLAIM

New claim 24 has been added to recite method steps directed to adjusting a size or a shape of the rounded folding surface of the fold blade. This feature has previously been examined with respect to claim 4 and found allowable. It is respectfully requested that new claim 24 be entered in the After Final Amendment because it does not require further searching and/or consideration by the Examiner and does not present any new issues.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

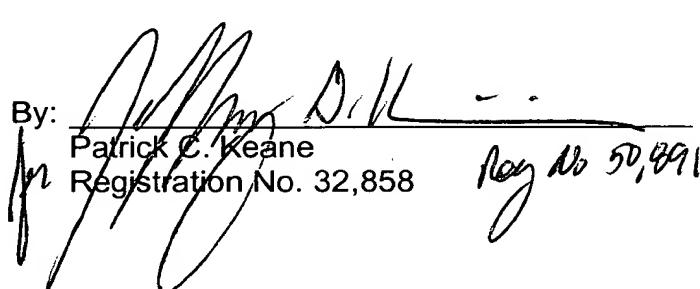
Respectfully submitted,

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